
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8017

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Senators Kline, Kohl-Welles, Weinstein, Spanel, Regala, Shin, Franklin and Poulsen

Read first time 02/16/2007. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

1 TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
2 AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

5 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
7 represent and petition as follows:

8 WHEREAS, Since early 2003, a conflict between forces of the
9 Government of the Republic of Sudan and rebel forces in the
10 impoverished Darfur region of western Sudan has resulted in attacks by
11 government allied militia and ground and air forces of the Government
12 of Sudan against civilians and undefended villages in the region; and

13 WHEREAS, The militia forces backed by the Government of Sudan have
14 also engaged in the use of rape as a weapon of war, the abduction of
15 children, the destruction of food and water sources, and the deliberate
16 and systematic manipulation and denial of humanitarian assistance for
17 the people of the Darfur region; and

18 WHEREAS, To date, over 400,000 Darfuri civilians have died and more
19 than 2.5 million have been displaced, forced to live in refugee and
20 displaced persons camps; and

1 WHEREAS, On December 18, 2003, United Nations Undersecretary-
2 General for Humanitarian Affairs, Jan Egeland, declared that the Darfur
3 region was probably "the world's worst humanitarian catastrophe," and
4 in April 2004 reported to the United Nations Security Council that in
5 Darfur, "a sequence of deliberate actions has been observed that seem
6 aimed at achieving a specific objective: The forcible and long-term
7 displacement of the targeted communities which may also be termed
8 'ethnic cleansing'; and

9 WHEREAS, Doctors Without Borders, the Nobel Peace Prize-winning
10 medical humanitarian relief organization and one of the few aid groups
11 on the ground in the Darfur region, reported that the region is the
12 scene of "catastrophic mortality rates"; and

13 WHEREAS, On June 24, 2004, the Committee on Conscience of the
14 United States Holocaust Memorial Museum declared a "genocide emergency"
15 in the Darfur Region of Sudan; and

16 WHEREAS, On July 22, 2004, the United States Congress passed
17 resolutions declaring genocide in Darfur, Sudan; and

18 WHEREAS, On January 25, 2005, the United Nations Commission of
19 Inquiry declared that, "government forces and militias conducted
20 indiscriminate attacks, including killing of civilians, torture,
21 enforced disappearances, destruction of villages, rape and other forms
22 of sexual violence, pillaging, and forced displacement throughout
23 Darfur. These acts were conducted on a widespread and systematic
24 basis. The vast majority of the victims of all of these violations
25 have been from the Fur, Zaghawa, Massalit, Jebel, Aranga, and other so-
26 called 'African' tribes"; and

27 WHEREAS, Since May 5, 2006, when the Darfur Peace Agreement was
28 signed by the government of Sudan, there has been no cessation of the
29 aforementioned violence against the civilians of Darfur; and

30 WHEREAS, On August 31, 2006, the United Nations Security Council
31 passed Resolution 1706 to expand the United Nations Mission in Sudan
32 (UNMIS) to deploy through the United Nations more peacekeepers as well
33 as to enhance their mandate to permit protection of civilians; and

34 WHEREAS, The Government of Sudan has consistently continued to
35 refuse to permit deployment of peacekeepers in Darfur, to ensure access
36 to humanitarian aid, to ensure safety for aid workers in Darfur, and to
37 ensure cessation of violence in the Darfur Region and has even expanded

1 attacks into neighboring countries of Chad and The Central African
2 Republic;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
4 President of the United States use all political and economic means
5 necessary to bring about a peaceful solution to the crisis and stop the
6 deaths of thousands of innocent people every day, including:

7 (1) Calling on the Government of Sudan to grant permission for
8 deployment of peacekeepers in fulfillment of United Nations Resolution
9 1706;

10 (2) Calling on the Government of Sudan to grant unconditional and
11 immediate access to Darfur to humanitarian aid organizations and the
12 human rights investigation and humanitarian teams of the United
13 Nations;

14 (3) Encouraging the Administrator of the United States Agency for
15 International Development to work with donors to develop a plan to
16 preposition and deliver humanitarian assistance to Darfur, including a
17 plan for delivery of food by air if necessary;

18 (4) Directing the Secretary of State to develop a plan for further
19 bilateral and multilateral action in the event the Government of Sudan
20 fails to immediately undertake the actions called for in this Memorial,
21 including consideration of implementing a "no-fly" zone to protect
22 civilians and aid workers; and

23 (5) Directing the United States Representative to the United
24 Nations to:

25 (a) Seek an official investigation by the United Nations to
26 determine if crimes against humanity have been committed by the
27 Government of Sudan in the Darfur region;

28 (b) Work with the international community to ensure that the
29 individuals responsible for crimes against humanity in Darfur are
30 accountable for their actions; and

31 (c) Provide an effective system to ensure that witnesses and
32 victims are protected during the process of fact-finding and evidence-
33 gathering in the investigation of human rights abuses.

34 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
35 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United
36 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the

1 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
2 Washington.

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